

## Govt to announce women dev policy soon: CA

'Citizenship Act' almost finalised

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said the government would announce a women development policy soon to ensure gender equality in society.

"The idea of equality of men and women will be reflected in the policy in line with the constitution, UN Convention on Elimination of all sorts of Discrimination against Women and Beijing working plan," he said.

He also informed that the government has almost finalised the formulation of the 'Citizenship Act' aiming to ensure equal rights for all citizens in the country.

The chief adviser made the disclosure while inaugurating the three-day 11th National Conference 2008 of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city. The theme of the conference is 'Equality Needs Equal Opportunity'.

Norwegian Ambassador in Dhaka Ingebjorg Stofring and Mahila Parishad General Secretary Ayesha Khanam also spoke at the inaugural session presided over by Mahila Parishad President Hena Das.

Law Adviser AF Hassan Ariff, special assistants to the chief adviser, councillors of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad from 58 districts

and distinguished personalities were present at the function.

The head of the caretaker government called upon all to build a social movement to reduce gender disparity and preventing domestic violence alongside legal process.

He expressed his belief that overall reforms are necessary in electoral process and in socio-economic and political culture for equal partnership of the women-folk in governing the state.

Listing various successes and valuable contribution of the women community in national life and socio-economic sector, he said even then, it is needless to say that women become victim regularly in various areas of national life.

He lamented that the constitutionally recognised equal rights of men and women are not reflected largely in practical life.

He expressed firm optimism that someday the dream of Begum Rokeya in 'women awakening' would be materialised in her homeland. He termed her pioneer of women movement in the subcontinent and hoped that her dream might come true sooner.

He thanked Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, formed under the leadership of poet Sufia Kamal, a successor to Begum Rokeya, for playing a significant role in national life in ensuring women's rights for the last 37 years.

Referring to various steps taken by the government for development and ensuring rights of women, Fakhruddin said the government has been implementing multi-sectoral programmes concerning repression against women.

He said a modern DNA laboratory has been set up in the city for identifying women repressors while various initiatives have also been taken to increase participation of women in various levels of civil and military administrations and policymaking areas.

He expressed satisfaction over Bangladesh Mahila Parishad's struggle for women development and establishing dignity involving country's progress and its role in building women movement as an auxiliary force of national movement.

He noted that despite various limitations in the patriarchal social system in a developing country, the womenfolk today made their positions in wider arena, beyond their own circles.

Mahila Parishad President Hena Das in her speech demanded trial of war criminals in special tribunal, saying that the entire nation wants to see the trial.

She hoped that the present caretaker government would start the process for the trial of war criminals.

## 'Vote for Cox's Bazar and Sundarbans'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was a different scene on the campus of Dhaka University yesterday.

A group of students from finance department were sitting in front of the academic building with four computers having Internet connection.

Whenever anyone passed them, he or she was asked about their e-mail address, and if anyone did not have the same, they were requested to open an account.

All those efforts were made to vote for Cox's Bazar and Sundarbans so that these two places continue to remain at the top of the nomination for seven natural wonders of the world.

Cox's Bazar and Sundarbans are now holding number one and two positions in the world ranking while the river Ganges stands at third position.

The finance department students yesterday conducted the campaign among the students of business studies faculty to vote for Cox's Bazar and Sundarbans at www.natural7wonders.com so that they can hold their top positions.

So far they have arranged voting facilities for 670 people to vote for Bangladesh.

"Today we got a huge response from people. We feel very encouraged. If we get support from any organisation, we will continue our campaign through out the year," said Aninda Roy, coordinator of Technical Support Project Promo N7W Youth Group, Bangladesh.

The finance department has provided them with broadband Internet connection and the computers for the campaign.

"It is a part of our social responsibility. If we find our students interested in doing something which would have positive impact, I feel, we should help them," said Prof Mahmood Osman Imam, chairman of the finance department.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism is also encouraging the students to continue their campaign.

"If we can hold our position at the top of the seven natural wonders, it will also boost tourism sector. We are planning a countrywide campaign for this," said Ziaur Rahman Khan, deputy secretary to the ministry, over telephone while he was on the way to the University campus to join the campaign yesterday.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed unveils the cover of a book titled 'Bangladesher Muktiyudhha' published by Bangladesh Army at his office yesterday. Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed, left, was present on the occasion.

## 'Bangladesher Muktiyudhha' launched

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday launched a book titled 'Bangladesher Muktiyudhha' published by Bangladesh Army, chronicling the events of the War of Liberation.

Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed, Chief of General Staff Maj Gen Md Sina Ibne Jamali and Adjutant General Maj Gen Matiar Rahman were present on the occasion at the CA's office.

Published in seven volumes, the book has been written on the basis of fundamental aspects where efforts were made to present innumerable known and unknown battles and related incidents that took place in remote areas of the country.

The history of liberation war along with geographical descriptions of the respective areas has been depicted in the seven volumes -- the first part covering Chittagong region, Comilla region placed in second part, Dhaka in third, Mymensingh in fourth part, Rangpur in fifth, Bogra in sixth and

Jessore region in seventh part.

A total of 1,234 small and big battles and coloured map of 280 war places have been incorporated into the 4,552-page book. Asia Publications on behalf of the education department of the Army Headquarters published the book.

The price of one-set book is Tk 4,575.

The chief adviser thanked Bangladesh Army for doing this important job, saying that the book would help future generations know about the real history of the War of Liberation.

Researchers would also find this book useful, he hoped.

The army chief presented a set of the book to the chief adviser.

Secretary to the CA's Office Kazi M Aminul Islam, CA's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim, DG SSF Maj Gen Sheikh Md Monirul Islam, Military Secretary to the CA Brig Gen Amin Tarique and Director of Military Education Department Brig Gen AKM Rezaul Karim were also present.

## Indo-Bangla border talks begin Sunday

BSS, Dhaka

A three-day deputy director general level border conference between the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and the Border Security Forces (BSF) of India will begin in Bogra on Sunday.

Deputy Director General of BDR Brigadier General MA Bari will lead the 12-member Bangladesh delegation in the conference while a 16-member Indian delegation will be represented by Inspector General (IG) of BSF North Bengal Frontier RA Tawari.

Issues relating to killing and detaining of Bangladeshis by the BSF, kidnapping, crossing the border by the BSF and Indian nationals, resisting entering of Indian drugs into Bangladesh, non-response of BSF for joint inspection of border pillars, handing over of land in Naogaon to Bangladesh will be raised by the Bangladesh side in the conference.

## 3 arrested with 369 sacks of adulterated fertiliser

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

The task force members recovered 369 sacks of adulterated TSP fertiliser from Shyamnagar upazila of the district in the last two days.

They also arrested three dealers for selling adulterated TSP fertilisers among the farmers.

The dealers are Mahbub Hossain of Village Banshipur, Chitta Ranjan Mallik of village Harinagar and Norman Sardar of village Munshiganj.

Acting on a tip-off, the task force members recovered 69 sacks of adulterated fertiliser from the shop owned by Chitta Ranjan Mallik at Harinagar bazar yesterday.

They also recovered 200 sacks of adulterated fertiliser from the shop of Mahbub Hossain at Banshipur and another 100 sacks of adulterated fertiliser from the shop of Norman Sardar at Munshiganj bazar.

## 21 shops gutted in Sylhet fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Twenty-one shops were gutted in a fire at a market at Bateswar in the Sylhet-Tamabil Road yesterday.

The fire allegedly originated from an electrical short circuit.

Locals, army personnel from the nearby cantonment and fire fighters extinguished the blaze after about two hours.

The incident took place in the morning when most of the shops had no customers at all.

## Jute workers demonstrate in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Over 5,000 casual workers of six state-owned jute mills of Khulna-Jessore industrial belt put up barricades on BIDD road at Khalishpur to press home their five-point demand.

But they withdrew the barricade after just half an hour at 10:30am following decision of a tripartite meeting held at 10 am in the office of Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills with Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) Commissioner Mainur Rahman Chowdhury in the chair.

The meeting was also attended by leaders of casual workers' action committee and high officials of six jute mills. Casual workers who put up barricades wearing white cloth agree to decision of the tripartite meeting to wait till January 22 to get their arrears as assured by KMP commissioner and managements of the jute mills.

But casual workers will continue their work abstention, said convener of the committee Shahidul Islam Gias.

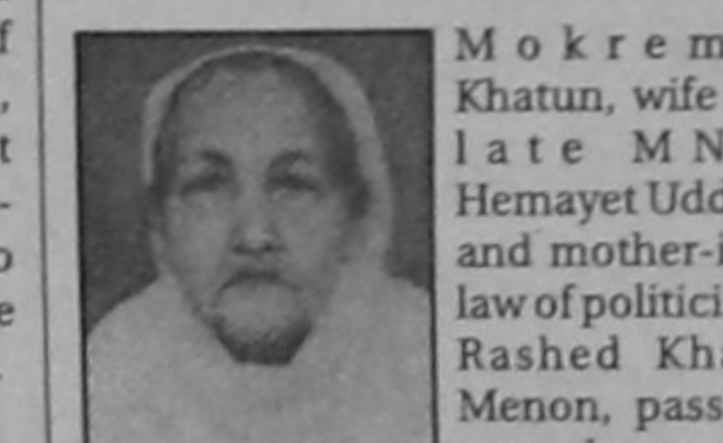
## BCS '84 batch reunion Jan 21

UNB, Dhaka

A reunion of the BCS 1984 batch will be held at the Biam auditorium at 7:00pm on January 21, marking the completion of 22 years of the batch.

The officers of all cadres of 1984 batch who are interested to participate in the reunion are requested to submit their registration fees by January 19 to the following persons: President of BCS '84 Forum M Khalid Mahmud, (01712663476), General Secretary Masud Mannan (01711595275) and Information and Publicity Secretary Md Sarwar Alam (01715078656).

## Obituary



Mokrem Khatun, wife of late MNA Hemayet Uddin and mother-in-law of politician Rashed Khan Menon, passed away due to old age complications at Uttara Crescent Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 97, says a press release.

She left behind her three grand daughters, one grandson and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

She was buried at Bonani graveyard.

Her qulhwani will be held on Sunday at the residence of her grandson after Asr prayers at Uttara in the city.

## Prof Azhar Hossain

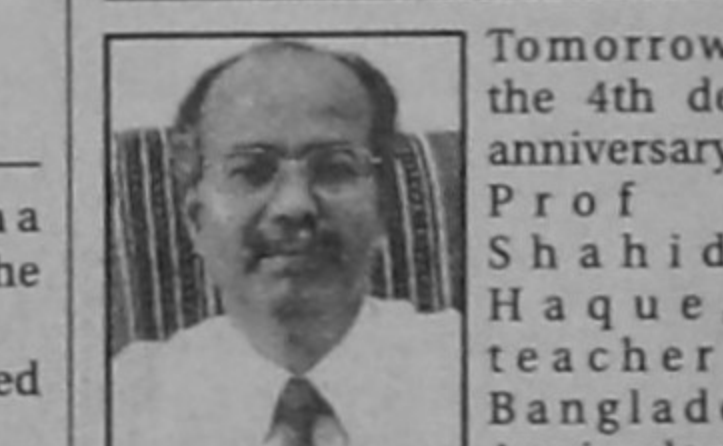


former secretary of Bangla Academy, passed away at his Wari residence in the city yesterday at the age of 87, says a press release.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held after Juma prayers at Wari mosque, Larmini Street in the city today.

## Death anniversary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh



On the occasion, a doa mahfil and destitute feeding will be held at his BAU residence.

Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the function.

## Chehlum



Jumma prayers at her Maniknagar residence today, says a press release.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programme.

## Abul Basher

Chehlum of Abul Basher, a teacher and social worker of Gopalganj, will be held today, says a press release.

He passed away on December 7 last year due to old age complications at the age of 82.

He had been awarded twice as best teacher in Gopalganj.

On the occasion, doa mahfil will be held after Jumma prayers at every mosque under Bashbaria union in Gopalganj.



Winners of the Elite Chatni Handwriting Competition pose for photograph with the guests at the prize giving ceremony at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

## GBA to set up English medium school in Bogra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of expatriates are setting up an English medium school in Bogra with a focus on socially and economically disadvantaged students.

The school will be built by the Greater Bogra Association (GBA) in the UK and would provide a large number of grants to socially and economically disadvantaged students, according to a press release.

The school will follow the national curriculum and would be headed by a British principal and managed by the GBA, a registered charity.

Initially the school, that plans to start classes by 2010, will provide education only at primary level and enrol 90 students. But the GBA plans to expand the school to secondary levels.

## Vocational edn in madrasa can curb militancy

Speakers tell seminar

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday said vocational education should be included in madrasa curricula with a view to curbing militancy.

They said vocational education will also help them choose a career in different professions.

They also observed that most of the students of traditional madrasas are concerned about their future, and as such they are prone to militancy.

The seminar titled 'Militancy in Pakistan: Implications in South Asia' was organised by International Studies Association of Bangladesh at RC Mojumder Auditorium of Dhaka University (DU).

Prof Imtiaz Ahmed of international relations department said poverty and lack of education are not the most significant factors for becoming militant, it's rather wrong belief which leads people to the devastating path.

He called on the youths to acquire proper knowledge about religion so that they cannot be lured to militancy in the name of religion.

Referring to recent militant activities in Pakistan, he said if the militants can get an access to nuclear devices it will pose unimaginable danger for peace and development of the region.

Former Ambassador

Mohammad Zamir said militancy is caused and evoked from a feeling of anger, deprivation and other discriminations. It's a gap of understanding, it's not necessarily poverty or lack of education, he added.

Prof Dalem Chandra Barman of peace and conflicts department, and Abdur Rob Khan, president of International Studies Association Bangladesh, also spoke.

## CTG MOB BEATING Extortionist succumbs to injuries

CU CORRESPONDENT

One of the injured miscreants, who were beaten by angry mob at Rangunia on Wednesday, succumbed to his injuries at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) in the early hours of yesterday.

The gang were extorting toll from a grocer in the guise of members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) at Shantir Hat on that day.

With this, two extortionists were killed in the mob beating.

Another extortionist, identified as Yusuf, 35, was undergoing treatment at Rangunia Health Complex in a critical condition.

## Theatre Festival begins today

A six-day Theatre Festival 2008 will begin at the Mahila Samity Auditorium in the city today, says a press release.

Theatre President Prof Mamtazuddin Ahmad will inaugurate the festival.

Theatre will present a drama titled 'Satghater Kanakari' on the first day.

A seminar on 'Satellite culture and Theatre' will also be held at 4:00pm as part of the festival.

## Concern over labour unrest in RMG sector

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (Skop) and Sramik Nirapatta Forum (SNF) yesterday expressed grave concern over the labour unrest in garment factories at Mirpur in the city and called on the government to take necessary steps to address this issue.

In separate statements, Skop and SNF leaders said that it is important to resolve the issue through discussion and as per the existing laws.

Skop leaders urged the government to withdraw restrictions on the activities of trade union and resolve the issue through tripartite dialogue.

SNF leaders said the garment factory owners are trying to divert the issue by terming 'conspiracy' the movement of workers who are pressing for their reasonable demands. Even false cases are being filed against the workers, they added.

The leaders also called for an increase in wages, allocation of ration and providing other facilities to workers considering the price hike of essentials.

## Mob beats one to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A mob beat a man to death after he allegedly entered the Mymensingh Medical College hostel campus to commit theft yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Alam, 30.

Alam was left unconscious on the hostel compound after a mob beat him up in the early hours of yesterday.

On information, police rushed to the spot and sent him to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries at 4:00pm.



## Temperature may rise

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night to morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 27.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest of 9.7 degrees at Rajshahi.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:35pm today and rises at 6:43am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	25.6	13.8	81	66
Chittagong	24.6	14.7	85	83
Rajshahi	25.2	09.7	89	74
Khulna	25.5	12.1	88	67
Barisal	25.5	11.3	87	74
Sylhet	25.9	13.4	85	73
Cox's Bazar	27.6	15.5	69	73



Prof Emajuddin Ahmed speaks at the launching ceremony of a book titled 'Traditional Medicine in Bangladesh: Issues and Challenges' at the Asiatic Society auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right are Prof Dr Abdul Ghani and Dr Md Jahangir Alam, author of the book, and on his left is Justice Muhammad Abdur Rouf.

## Manipulation to trick TV viewers

FROM PAGE 1

Bogra on January 26 last year was of Ratan Kumar who was picked up by Bogra police on January 25 on an allegation of stealing and hung from the ceiling in the duty officer's room at Bogra Sadar Police Station.

Dainik Dinkal, a Bangla newspaper known as a mouthpiece of BNP, also published the photo yesterday, referring to the news item of BanglaTV.

Following publication of the photo, an investigation was conducted and officer-in-charge Shamsul Haque, sub-inspectors (SI) Monjur Rahman, Shariful Islam and Abdul Karim and Constable Nurul Islam of the police station were suspended.

Ratan, a resident of Dalpatti in Bogra town, was a suspected heroin peddler and a two-tola gold necklace was found from him, police had told journalists later.

The photograph has already created confusion among people across the world.

According to News World, a New

York-based news agency, Bangla TV posted the news on its website with video clips as an exclusive item on Monday.

Part of the programme was uploaded on the popular website YouTube, which has been accessed by hundreds of thousands of people across the globe.

"The news had become a hot cake for all as soon as the news spread in the United States," News World reported.

The Dainik Dinkal also gave the news headlined "Video on tortures on Tarique Rahman during remand is published" lead treatment yesterday.

This video and photograph and statements of Tarique Rahman in the court on January 9 clearly prove that Tarique was tortured during remand, the newspaper report claimed.

The government strongly protested the Dinkal report and photograph, terming it baseless and imaginary and urged all concerned

to refrain from publishing such reports without crosschecking.

Home Secretary Abdul Karim said the person in the picture published in the newspaper is actually Ratan, who is accused of stealing, but Dainik Dinkal portrayed Ratan as BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman.

"It goes against the principle of journalism," Karim told reporters at a press briefing at the ministry. "This has not only tarnished the image of the government, but also the country internationally. As a leader of a political party, Tarique Rahman's image has also been stained," he added.

Asked if the government will take any legal action against Dinkal, Karim said, "We will see what we can do. The decision will be taken in due time."

Asked if the government will investigate Tarique's claim that he was tortured during remand, he said, "We will do so only if the court asks us to look into the matter."



Members of Coast Guard seized about 4.70 lakh metres of current net worth Tk 2.50 crore from different areas in Chandpur and burnt them yesterday.

## DHAKA TODAY

**Seminar**  
Bangladesh Institute of Social Research (BISR) organises a seminar on 'Aging population and marginalisation process in Bangladesh'. Venue: BISR conference room. Time: 5:00pm.

**Book launching**  
The launching ceremony of the book 'Chalutha Chinta' by Shafiqul Sarkar will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

**Discussion**  
Sammilito Samajik Andolon organises a discussion on current economic crisis and election roadmap. Venue: Moni Singh-Farhad Memorial Trust auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.